(c) by when this proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Charter of Demands on which three federations of postal employees have served notice for indefinite strike with effect from 2.5.2000 includes, *inter alia*, demand for improvement in the pay scales of Postal Assistants.

Fax Directory

3836. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no Directory of Fax number in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, the telepone directories are printed under the Yellow Pages Scheme as per revised order circulated in Nov., 1998. This scheme envisages that there shall be no separate directory for Fax numbers. The Fax numbers are to be included under the usual heading and to differentiate, a suffix "F" is to be added at the end of the number.

Traditional system of post offices

3837. SHRI K. M. KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the usefulness of the present traditional system of post offices *vis-a-vis* the advancement of scientific technology ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any attempt to improve the position of some of the post offices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the difference observed by Government in this regard ?